

Page 1, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following heading:

Brief Summary of the Invention

Page 2, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following heading:

Detailed Description of the Invention

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 - 11 without prejudice.

Add the following new claims:

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B1
12. (New) A structured particulate system comprising at least one active, organic solid component incorporated in a matrix which forms a network completely incorporating said active, organic solid component in a weight ratio of 1:99 of said solid component to 99:1 of said matrix, the mean weight diameter of the particles of said structured system ranging from 25 to 1500 microns.

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13. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 wherein the active, organic solid component is selected from the group consisting of oleanoic acid, ursolic acid, folic acid, policosanol and phytosterols.

14. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13 wherein said system displays a loose bulk density of 0.1 to 1.1 Kg/l.

Sub B2 15. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 14 wherein the system displays a loose bulk density of 0.3 to 0.6 Kg/l.

3 ~~16~~ (New) The structured particulate system of claim ~~12~~ or ~~13~~ wherein the mean weight diameter ranges from 50 to 400 microns.

4 ~~17~~ (New) The structured particulate system of claim ~~16~~ wherein the mean weight diameter ranges from 60 to 300 microns.

A 2 *Sub C2* 18. (New) The structured particulate system of claim ~~12~~ or ~~13~~ wherein the weight ratio between active component and matrix ranges from 80:20 to 20:80.

1 *2* ~~19~~ (New) The structured particulate system of claim ~~12~~ or ~~13~~ wherein the weight ratio between active component and matrix ranges from 60:40 to 40:60.

Sub B2 20. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13 wherein the active, organic solid component has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 2 to 275 microns.

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21. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13 wherein the active, organic solid component has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 5 to 250 microns.

22. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13 wherein the active, organic solid component has a discrete particle size within the total structured particulate system of 7 to 200 microns.

23. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13 wherein the active, organic solid component is a nutritionally active component.

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24. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 23 wherein the nutritionally active component is a component that improves the oral properties of a food product, or the dispersability of the active component in a food.

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25. (New) The structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13 wherein the matrix is edible and is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, sugars, gums, thickeners, stabilisers, syrups, flours, starches, dextrose, maltodextrins and celluloses.

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26. (New) Method for improving at least one property selected from the oral properties of a food product and the homogeneity of an organic solid active component in

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B 5 a food product, which comprises incorporating in the food product an effective amount of the structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13.

27. (New) Method for improving at least one property selected from the oral properties of a food product and the homogeneity of an organic solid active component in a food product, which comprises incorporating in the food product from 0.01 to 50 wt %, based on the food product of the structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13.

A 2 28. (New) Method for improving at least one property selected from the oral properties of a food product and the homogeneity of an organic solid active component in a food product, which comprises incorporating in the food product from 1 to 30 wt %, based on the food product of the structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13.

14 29. (New) A food product selected from the group consisting of margarine, spreads, baked goods, extruded goods, confections, ice-creams and dairy products containing an effective amount of the structured particulate system of claim 12 or 13.

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B 6 30. (New) Process for preparing a structured particulate system as defined in claim 12 or 13 which comprises:

- (i) mixing a solid organic active component with a matrix into a homogeneous powder;

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- (ii) adding a solvent to part of the powder obtained to dissolve the matrix resulting in a suspension of the active component in solvent;
 - (iii) suspending part of the powder resulting from step (i) in an expansion chamber of a fluid bed; and
 - (iv) spraying the suspension resulting from (ii) onto the suspended powder of step (iii) in the expansion chamber and drying rapidly by a heating medium.

15 31 (New) The process of claim 30 wherein the solvent added to step (ii) is water and the heating medium of step (iv) is heated air.